

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 35-36 are presently active, Claims 23 have been previously canceled without prejudice, Claims 12-22 and 24-34 are withdrawn from further consideration as directed to a non-elected invention, and Claims 5, 7-8, 11, 35 and 36 are amended to clarify the claimed subject matters. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 5, 11, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Andrews (U.S. Patent No. 3,191,149) and further in view of Chau et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,859,698). Claims 6-8 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-4 and 9-10 were indicated as allowed.

First, Applicant wishes to thank Examiners Seth and Ahmed for the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicant's representatives on July 31, 2006, at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. Claims 5, 11, 35 and 36 are amended to distinguish over Andrews and Chau et al., as indicated by the Examiners.

Namely, amended Claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, "a second step of estimating an occurrence probability distribution of signal values at respective values of a parameter based on a plurality of waveforms including the signal waveform used for generating the registered template and the newly measured signal waveform, the parameter relating to changes of a waveform" and "a third step of generating, based on the occurrence probability distribution, a new template including a waveform template including expected values of the signal values at the respective values of the parameter and a probability template including a piece of

occurrence probability information of the expected values, and replacing the registered template with the new template.”

Amended Claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, “an estimating unit which estimates an occurrence probability distribution of signal values at respective values of a parameter based on a plurality of waveforms including the signal waveform used for generating the registered template and the newly measured signal waveform, the parameter relating to changes of a waveform” and “wherein the template generator generates, based on the occurrence probability distribution, a new template including a waveform template including expected values of the signal values at the respective values of the parameter and a probability template including a piece of occurrence probability information of the expected values, and replaces the registered template with the new template.”

Amended Claim 35 recites, *inter alia*, “a second step of estimating an occurrence probability distribution of signal values at respective values of a parameter based on a plurality of waveforms including the newly measured signal waveform and the registered template, the parameter relating to changes of a waveform” and “a third step of generating, based on the occurrence probability distribution, a new template including a waveform template including expected values of the signal values at the respective values of the parameter and a probability template including a piece of occurrence probability information of the expected values, and replacing the registered template with the new template.”

Amended Claim 36 recites, *inter alia*, “an estimating unit which estimates an occurrence probability distribution of signal values at respective values of a parameter based on a plurality of waveforms including newly measured signal waveform and the registered template, the parameter relating to changes of a waveform” and “wherein the template generator generates, based on the occurrence probability distribution, a new template including a waveform template including expected values of the signal values at the

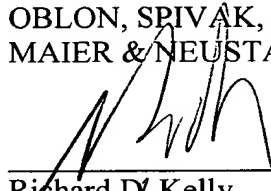
respective values of the parameter and a probability template including a piece of occurrence probability information of the expected values, and replaces the registered template with the new template.”

Accordingly, Claims 5, 11, 35 and 36 patentably distinguish over Andrews and Chau et al., and therefore, are believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, it is believed that the outstanding rejection has been overcome, and the application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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